Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph bridging pages 62-63 with the following amended paragraph:

Real-Time Quantitative PCR analysis

Real-time PCR was performed on 59 of the 60-case training samples (one case was excluded due to insufficient materials) and the 20-case validation samples. Briefly, 2 μg of amplified RNA was converted into double stranded cDNA. For each case 12ng of cDNA in triplicates was used for real-time PCR with an ABI 7900HT (Applied Biosystems) as described (Gelmini, S. et al. "Quantitative polymerase chain reaction-based homogeneous assay with fluorogenic probes to measure c-erbB-2 oncogene amplification." Clin Chem 43, 752-8 (1997)). The sequences of the PCR primer pairs and fluorogenic MGB probe (5' to 3'), respectively, that were used for each gene are as follows:

HoxB13

TTCATCCTGACAGTGGCAATAATC (SEQ ID NO:38),

CTAGATAGAAAATATGAGGCTAACGATCAT (SEQ ID NO:39),

VIC- CGATAACCAGTACTAGCTG (SEQ ID NO:40);

IL17BR

GCATTAACTAACGATTGGAAACTACATT SEQ ID NO:41),

GGAAGATGCTTTATTGTTGCATTATC (SEQ ID NO:42),

VIC-ACAACTTCAAAGCTGTTTTA (SEQ ID NO:43).